16: Müller--236 [3] U-3 (no date) 1910 Formosan Aborigines
116, 675

Various formalities are employed for contracts among the Taiwan aborigines. One custom which is common among all tribes is to bury a stone in a secret place; both parties bury it together and neither may touch it during the time the contract is in effect. Sometimes one of the parties cuts a branch from a tree and throws it to the other, who at that moment cuts the grass with his sword. *

* A chieftain once offered me a pledge of security by biting a bullet out of a cartridge and giving it to me as a hypothec.

Contracts are held sacred among the aborigines, and it rarely occurs that one of the parties breaks the contract.

22: Wiedfeldt--43 F-5 (1913) 1914 Formosan Aborigines
116, 675 Atayal

From the legal principle of indebtedness, the Atayals derive the basic concept of the bilateral agreement, or contract, which applies to purchase as a matter of give and take, both to the purchase of a wife or a child, and to the purchase of land between clans, and, more recently, also to the purchase of cattle. If a person who has been bought leaves the purchaser, he must be given back, or the sum paid must be returned. All other kinds of contracts, such as rent, lease, borrowing, loans, and contracts for service and labor are unheard of... The reimbursement of the hamengoppu [MC: old women] for tattooing is more in the nature of a gift than of a money-payment according to contract.